

## Health Conditions.

In the main the health of the people on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, during the calendar year 1918, has been good. Births have exceeded deaths as shown by the census report and no dangerous epidemic of ~~an~~ infectious disease manifested itself. Through the greatest of good fortune Spanish influenza did not reach these isolated islands. Grave consequences were foreseen in case it should have broken out. Diphtheria <sup>occurred</sup> ~~was~~ on board the Bureau's supply vessel Roosevelt, but fortunately before there had been any exposures of consequence, the use of antitoxin by the St. Paul physician was effective in preventing the introduction of this disease. The vessel was quarantined in Unalaska until it was safe to return ~~to the islands~~.

The labor connected with the taking of upwards of 30,000 seal-skins in the short period of about two months was very fatiguing to the natives, because it had been so long since they had been employed to such an extent before. Not since 1869 had <sup>as many</sup> ~~an equal~~ number been taken, which was of course before most workmen of the present generation were old enough to go on the killing fields. It is believed that in subsequent seasons this difficulty will not be encountered to such an appreciable extent.

Several major operations were successfully performed by the island physicians, most <sup>notable</sup> ~~notable~~ among which was <sup>by Dr. W. Byrd Hunter on account of</sup> ~~due to~~ the unfortunate falling of Dr. Harold Heath, a naturalist temporarily in the Bureau's service, from a cliff on St. Paul Island. The trail caved away over which he was walking <sup>near Tolstoi Rocks</sup> and he fell upon jagged rocks about 45 feet below. Fractures of both legs and a number of face bones resulted. Through prompt and

efficient medical and hospital attention his life was saved, but he was incapacitated for many months.

The Bureau sent some lantern slides to St. Paul Island which were received from the Public Health Service. These were shown in connection with motion picture exhibitions and were productive of considerable interest among both natives and employees.

~~Just~~ <sup>As</sup> with the schools, progress toward an ideal situation in medical and sanitary matters ~~must necessarily be slow, and the ideal cannot be expected to be achieved for many years.~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~Some~~ <sup>Notable</sup> progress, however, is made each season, and when it is considered that 60 years ago the population was living in underground hovels, ~~it must be admitted that in the aggregate the results~~ <sup>in the aggregate</sup> are highly satisfactory. Each year marks a step forward in the betterment of the natives from both ~~medical and moral standpoints.~~ One of the greatest results obtained has seemed to be the elimination of church practices which were conducive to the spread of tuberculosis and other communicable diseases. The natives in general are amenable to discipline and after a little cheerful persuasion are willing to abandon inherited and acquired customs which are believed to be injurious. Physicians have compared the island communities most favorably with such places as coal mining camps. Some of the Bureau's officials who have had occasion to visit many parts of Alaska in the course of their duty <sup>have</sup> ~~have~~ stated that the conditions on the Pribilofs <sup>much</sup> are <sup>are</sup> better than among the other native communities, ~~in the northern territory with but one or two possible exceptions.~~

In the fall of 1918, ~~Mr.~~ A. C. Reynolds, then assistant agent on St. Paul Island, was taken ill with what was diagnosed brain tumor. His

condition became so serious that the physician asked for his immediate removal to the States. Through the <sup>cooperation</sup> ~~kindness~~ of the Coast Guard Service the Cutter Bear called at St. Paul Island and took Mr. Reynolds and his wife to Seattle. <sup>On November 9,</sup> ~~A few days later he~~ <sup>passed away</sup> ~~died~~ and his loss is seriously felt by all concerned.   
 *after arrival*